



# Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday  
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## Governor Togiola Tulafono offers his best wishes to the American Samoa team

**UTULEI** - Governor Togiola Tulafono offered his best wishes to the American Samoa team that will participate in the South Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, that started Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"On behalf of the American Samoa Government, I wish to salute all of the participants who are representing the territory as we compete against the very best athletes that our region has to offer. It is our sincerest wish that your attempts be brave and that you represent not only the spirit of competition, but, most importantly, the spirit of goodwill toward your Pacific counterparts as well. It shall be our prayer that God will grant you strength and health, and we look forward to your safe and triumphant return."

Governor Togiola also issued on Tuesday a **General Memorandum** authorizing leave for more than 40 ASG employees that will participate at the South Pacific Games.

"In accordance with past practice of the American Samoa Government and in the interest of national solidarity in support of our youth programs that encourages the physical, mental, emotional and intellectual development of our youth, and as part of our contribution to the enhancement of our policies relating to those programs, I wish to indorm all department directors, agency and office heads that all athletes, trainers, coaches, team officials and health officials whose names have been submitted by the ASNOC, that are participating directly in re[representing American Samoa in the South Pacific Games, are herewith granted leave and their absence excused with pay for the period beginning August 24, 2007 through Septemeber 7, 2007, while they are participating in the Games."

*".....be brave and  
that you represent  
not only the spirit of  
competition, but,  
most importantly,  
the spirit of  
goodwill....."*

*Governor Tulafono*

## DOI continues to shower DBAS with grant funding

On June 6, 2007, the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) received \$13,200 in grant money from the Department of Interior (DOI) to strengthen its institutional capacity in trade and advocacy associations.

DBAS president Utu Abe Malae explained that the grant fund is being used to pay for the bank's membership in key regional and advocacy organizations such as National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), Association of Development Financing Institutions of the Pacific (ADFIP), and Association of Development Financing Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP).

"When you participate in the annual general meetings or training offered by these kinds of organizations, you can come upon serendipitous information or meet individuals who are not only fascinating in their own right, but can help the bank in areas you never thought about before," said Utu via an email correspondent. "The key is to participate and look for fresh ideas, and then implement these good ideas when you get home."

Earlier this year on March 6, DBAS received \$85,000 under the Procurement of Audit Services to assist with the production of audited financial statements for FY2006 for submission to U.S. federal agencies and the American Samoa Government.

## Utu Abe Malae stays on as DBAS president



*Utu Abe Malae did not finalize any deal with the LBJ Medical Center for the CEO position so therefore, he will stay on as president of the Development Bank of American Samoa.*

President of the Development Bank of American Samoa Utu Abe Malae, who was offered the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position at the LBJ Medical Center earlier this month, will stay on as DBAS president as a deal between him and the semi-autonomous agency was never finalized. Instead, the LBJ board has selected chief financial officer (CFO) Patricia Elly Tindall as the new hospital CEO. Tindall was the acting CEO at the LBJ Hospital since former CEO Kirk Gray's contract was terminated several weeks ago.

Negotiations between Utu and the LBJ were reported to have been in the works but in the end, Utu said that nothing was finalized as "we, the bank board of directors included, offered to loan my services to the hospital on a 90:10 basis, meaning that the LBJ pays for 90% of my salary and DBAS, 10%," explained Utu. "Apparently the LBJ board wanted me there '110%' and I don't blame them because of all the problems they are facing," he continued. Utu said that the LBJ Hospital "could have gotten 90% of me rather than 0% but there is a potential symbiotic relationship between the bank and the hospital that can benefit both. I multi-task and delegate to the individuals best able to handle a work assignment."

Utu served as the CEO for the LBJ Medical Center from November 1995 to January 1997. During that time, he enforced key policies and practices like emphasizing the role of doctors and nurses in the delivery of health care (there was a smaller administrative staff then), including training and continued education.

He also implemented a high degree of accountability and sense of urgency from the workforce that resulted in, for example, improvements in Medicare reimbursements. In addition, Utu built the Emergency Room; relocated Vital Statistics away from the LBJ; installed the oxygen generation system and the telemedicine system; and ensured that accounts payable was current.

So what does he think are the main things that should take place at the LBJ right NOW, as far as management is concerned, in order to smooth things out at the territory's only hospital? Utu responded: "Concentrate on the delivery of health care by cleaning up the personnel and organizational issues that are taking up precious time." "Of course, you need a keen understanding of organizations and strong leadership to implement these things," he concluded.



Some of the products affected by the international recall of toys believed to contain high levels of lead and dangerously small magnets are Dora the Explorer, Diego, Batman, Polly Pocket, and Elmo. Pictured here are four of the toys affected by the recall. Parents whose children have toys included in the recall are urged to remove them from their homes and contact the toy manufacturer for a refund. Otherwise, they can contact the local Department of Health.

## DOH complies with Governor's request to assemble Task Force

Department of Health medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau has been named chairman of the newly formed DOH Task Force assembled by Director of Health Utoofili Asofaafetai Maga in accordance with Governor Togiola's request to look into Chinese manufactured goods.

Togiola's request was voiced through an August 14 letter that followed a worldwide recall of products manufactured in China reported to contain high levels of lead and other poisonous chemicals.

The task force will be responsible for collecting and examining samples of imports arriving directly into the territory from China, to determine the safety risks that such products will pose in the local community.

Tuliau said that the biggest concern is for the young children, as there is currently a worldwide recall issued by some of the world's largest toy manufacturers and distributors, which has sparked panic in many parents.

International reports have pointed to toys manufactured in China as containing high levels of lead paint, in addition to magnets being small enough to be ingested.

The Task Force met for the first time on Friday, August 14, and a second meeting took place on August 21 where representatives from other government agencies were invited to join and offer helpful insight.

DOH released a statement on August 20 saying that their Environmental Division is standing by, ready to hit local stores in hopes of removing all products affected by the recall from the shelves.

Last month, Mattel Inc. issued a recall for toys painted with high levels of lead, and toys that contain small magnets that can be swallowed by children.

Fisher-Price has also recalled 1.5 million products for the same reason. A number of local vendors carry Mattel and Fisher Price toy products. The owner of a small store in the eastern district had to discard the only Elmo toy she had in stock due to the recall.

Tuliau said that no injuries have been reported locally but since the initial recall was issued last November, one child has died in the United States and 19 others underwent surgical procedures after swallowing the magnets in the toys.

"Swallowing the magnets is very dangerous and will require surgery because when two magnets are involved, they tend to stick together in the stomach and the result will include blockage, infections, and/or intestinal perforations," Tuliau explained.

He added that adults need to identify each toy that is in the home and within the reach of small children. If any of the toys is affected by the recall, the manufacturer needs to be contacted for a refund. Otherwise, the toy can be turned in to the Department of Health.

Lead is toxic if ingested, as it contains a potent nerve toxin that can affect the brain, causing lower IQ, poor memory and attention, decreased motor skills and self control, and increased aggression.

Tuliau said that infants and toddlers are especially at risk because they have a habit of putting their hands in their mouths without even thinking about it.

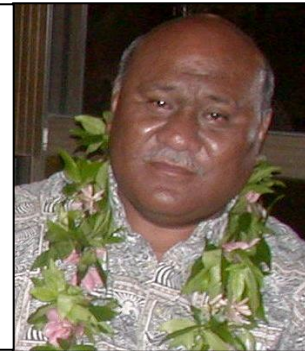
Lead poisoning is a silent killer, as it cannot be seen or smelled. There are no symptoms. The only way to check for it is through a blood test that is not available in the territory.





*Department of Public Works director Taeaotui Punaofa Tilei's Civil Highway Division will manage the Masefau Village Project throughout the duration of construction which is set for completion in 240 days.*

## Masefau Village Road Construction Project Underway



*Senator Faamausili Mau Mau Jr. offered remarks on behalf of Masefau village on August 10 during the ground breaking ceremony for the Masefau Village Road project.*

The Masefau Village Road project broke ground on August 10<sup>th</sup> in a small ceremony attended by a handful of government officials including Governor Togiola Tulafono. "I am honored and pleased to break ground for this road improvement project for the village of Masefau," said the Governor. "This project is beneficial for village student residents who have had to endure hardship and hazards that are associated with an inadequate road system."

Deputy Secretary of Samoan Affairs HTC Nanai K.S. Afuola served as Master of Ceremony while Rev. Tafu Afusia offered the opening prayer and blessed the site. Department of Public Works director Taeaotui Punaofa Tilei gave a brief description of the project, followed by remarks from Lautogia Taula, president of E&W Construction, who was awarded the contract for the project.

Sen. Faamausili Mau Mau Jr. offered remarks on behalf of Masefau village before the turning of the soil, marking the official commencement of the work.

The Masefau Village Road begins from the west end of Masefau Elementary School on Route 006 after the concrete bridge, extending approximately 2,250 linear feet. The project will include the construction of a 16-foot wide concrete road made of 5-inch Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) laid on 4 inches of crushed aggregate base course. In addition to the new road, the project will also include the construction of a sidewalk, a 6-inch curb, concrete swales, and a drainage system. A total of 4 culverts will be installed with headwalls, aprons, inlet basins, and hand rails.

E&W Construction was awarded the \$477,439.20 contract which is to be fulfilled 240 calendar days following the Notice to Proceed (NTP) date.

To ensure quality services, the Department of Public Works' Civil Highway Division will manage the project throughout the duration of construction.

The Masefau Village Road project is fully funded by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Reuben Siatu'u is the project engineer while Mikaele Senio is serving as the project inspector.

"I am pleased to note that the project is designed to service an education facility, as well as an under-served population within this area of the territory, which is the rationale behind the construction priority," said the Governor. He added, "I would like to thank the US Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration, for their solid financial support for this important series of projects that enhances both safety and economic development in the territory." Togiola concluded, "I commend the Department of Public Works on all the work they have accomplished to improve school road systems throughout the territory. Furthermore, I extend my best wishes to E&W Construction Company for a safe and timely completion in the construction of this very important road project."

### ASG RADIO PROGRAM

*With:*

**Governor Togiola Tulafono**

**Saturdays @ 7a.m.**

**On: Showers of Blessings -**

**FM 104.5**

**HAVE A  
HAPPY AND  
SAFE LABOR  
DAY  
WEEKEND!!!**

### SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens ([harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov](mailto:harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov))

or

Vince Iuli ([vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov](mailto:vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov))

## New ASG Licenses for Driving, not Travel; No Special Treatment

The Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) reminds all local residents that the new ASG drivers license (ASDL) is not the same as a territory ID card or another form of a Certificate of Identity (CI) used for travel, despite the fact that it is on-line and accessible to other federal agencies. "OMV is not a travel agency," said Fred Scanlan, the OMV project manager who wrote the proposal for the new drivers license program. "The primary purpose of the licenses is to drive, not travel."

Since the inception of the new ASDL program on June 15, many residents have flocked to the OMV compound in Tafuna to get their new, more modern drivers licenses. Some however were disappointed to discover that nothing can be processed without the proper paperwork and documents, as the new drivers licenses are made to comply with the emerging Real ID standards. "Original documents are the only type accepted," Scanlan explained. "Situations will be handled on a case by case basis, no excuses."



*Pictured here is a sample of the new American Samoa Drivers License that is posted on the window at the District Court. By 2010, every local driver must be armed with a new ASDL, which is made to comply with Real ID standards. The new licenses are up to federal guidelines, and contain information that will be accessible on-line to other federal agencies.*

At a minimum, the following documents should be provided:

1. For US Nationals & US Citizens: Passport or Birth Certificate, Social Security Card or W-2 or Pay Voucher that shows the applicant's social security number, a court clearance, and a legal document that shows a change of name, if applicable.
2. Aliens or foreigners must produce the same type of documents, in addition to an alien identification card. "No Alien ID card, no drivers license and the Immigration Office will be contacted," Scanlan explained.

A court clearance that has been forged and shows no stamp from the court is not valid, and court clearances are only good for five days. "We cannot change a person's name without an Affidavit to accompany the applicant's legal documents," Scanlan said. Commercial permits require vision on both eyes and according to Scanlan, this is a statute that was never enforced. For a private license, those who can only see through one eye are required to see a doctor about taking an eye exam. "There is no exception to whether you're a high chief, senator, representative, priest, director, etc. for not having the right documents. Privilege is not a right!" Scanlan stressed.

For those who are entitled to a provisional or learner's permit, "do not ask for a private license because you're flying out in a couple of days. Recommend to get a license when you get to your destination of travel," Scanlan said. He explained that the rumor about an increase in cost is not true, but a Public Announcement will be made if and when any increase will be implemented. The new drivers licenses cost \$12.

Lastly, an out of state or territory drivers license will be confiscated from any person wishing to obtain a new ASDL. "This is by law. The state license will be sent back to its point of origin," Scanlan concluded.

As of last month, over 1,600 of the 8,000 licensed drivers in the territory had applied for and received their new drivers licenses. Local drivers with valid licenses need not rush to get a new one, although everyone must be armed with a new ASDL by 2010. The new licenses are state of the art and very secure, equipped with numerous features to protect from fraud. With the issuance of the new ASDLs already in motion, the next step would be to deploy the new vehicle registration and title system.

So far, American Samoa and two other states have accepted and deployed its licenses with the Real ID compliance standards, while the rest of the states and territories are mandated to be in compliance by 2013.

More information on the new ASDL program can be obtained by calling OMV directly at 699-9182/9188. OMV operates under the umbrella of the Department of Public Safety.



Former House Speaker Matagi Ray Mailo McMoore was unanimously confirmed in the Senate (17-0) and passed in the House of Representatives (12-6-1) as the new director of the Department of Port Administration.

## The Fono Confirms Matagi McMoore as new Port Director

After garnering 12 votes during a confirmation hearing on Monday, August 20 in the House of Representatives, Matagi Ray Mailo McMoore is now officially the new director of the Department of Port Administration.

Matagi's fate was in the hands of the lower chamber as the Senate had already cast a unanimous vote of 17-0 in his favor on July 10.

Matagi takes over for Sen. PC Tuitele Fofu Tuitele who resigned from the position two months ago to fill the Fofu County Senate seat left empty with the passing of the late Sen. Rev. Faiivae Apelu Galea'i.

Being named Port director following an appointment by Governor Togiola Tulafono and confirmation in the Fono gives Matagi his second government position since he lost his re-election bid to Fagatogo Mayor Leapai Sipa Anoa'i last year.

Prior to this, Matagi served as an executive assistant to the Governor. Earlier this year, he was confirmed as a member of the Immigration Board.

Matagi, who retired as a master sergeant from the US Air Force in 1986, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1997 where he served as House Speaker from 2001 to 2006. During those years, Matagi was a member of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' Health Committee and the Resources Committee of the National Council of State Legislatures.

When he first announced Matagi's appointment, Togiola wrote a letter to the Fono describing Matagi as being "highly qualified for the post," adding that "Through his experience, he has acquired an extensive knowledge and familiarity with duties of the highest caliber of government."

In his position as Port director, Matagi is responsible for overseeing several multi-million dollar projects including the management of six harbors and three airports in Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On August 22, 1951**, the Legislature of American Samoa met in a special one-day session "to consider a petition the content of which had been inserted in the *Congressional Record* and which sharply criticized the members of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of this government. During this session, the *Fono* reviewed the results of an investigation by its joint committee on house rules. Resolutions developed therefrom were forwarded to Washington and were subsequently printed into the *Congressional Record*.

**On August 23, 1941**, the proposed plan "of enlistment of natives in the First Samoan Battalion [U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] estimated that approximately 753 were prospective candidates. These figures cannot be used as accurate, it was pointed out, because the natives change their names frequently and because they reported for drills in different villages. Three hundred and one men attended weekly drills regularly. More than 200 men of these prospects were employed in other than plantation work. It was estimated that not more than 50 men could be enlisted from the islands of the Manu'a Group without material injury to their economic and social life."

**On August 24, 1943**, First Lady (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt inspected the Fita Fita Guard and Band, and the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

**On August 25, 1996**, the *Aiga Tautai o Samoa* (Samoan Voyaging Society) launched the 60-foot 'alia (double-hulled voyaging canoe) *Mana o Samoa* in Pago Pago Harbor. The vessel was severely damaged upon launching.

**On August 25, 1904**, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 49: Blunts Point," totalling 4.20 acres, from "Tugaolotagi & W.H. Yandall," for \$878.50. (This transaction was completed on November 25, 1904 [q.v.]).

**On August 26, 1913**, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy issued a directive to establish a nursing school in Tutuila. "For this purpose," he wrote, "two members of the Nurse Corps, United States Navy, will be ordered to Samoa, who together with the Medical Officer of the Navy attached to the Station, will give the necessary instruction."

**On August 26, 2002**, the three Hawaii Marines who were killed in combat in the Vietnam War were honored when three streets at a new housing project at the Kaneohe Bay base were named for them. American Samoan Marine Sergeant Sisifo Faleafine enlisted in 1962, following in the footsteps of his father, who was also a Marine. He was born in American Samoa and later, when his family moved to Honolulu, attended McKinley High School. Faleafine enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1962 and served as an infantryman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. "He wanted to make it a career," said his widow, Leetha. "He wanted to serve his country even knowing the risk, and he paid the ultimate sacrifice." Leetha Faleafine said her family is extremely proud. "We never expected anything like this," she said. "It was a shock that something like this would happen. We feel very, very good about it." She noted that her husband's family has strong ties to the military, with five of 12 siblings serving in uniform. Faleafine's combat tours earned him two Purple Hearts and one Bronze Star. More than 20 members of the Faleafine clan attended the ceremony.

**On August 27, 1891**, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 4," Sogelau Ridge (1 acre, 1 rod, 24 perches: the American flag was raised there on April 17, 1900) and "Parcel No. 5," Mauga-o-Ali'i (6 acres, 1 rod, 22 perches: the future site of Government House) from William Cooper for the sum of \$1,000.00.

**On August 27, 1942**, the first group of wounded sailors and marines from Guadalcanal arrived at the Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3 ("MOB 3") at Mapusaga, Tutuila. Seabees from the 11th Battalion began constructing more buildings to accommodate the wounded from this fiercely contested battle.

**On August 28, 1851**, the "Vicariate Apostolic of the Navigators Islands" was established in Apia.



## Utu's update on DBAS operations and role of board members

At this time, the Development Bank of American Samoa needs about \$7 million to tie them over the next three years. This is according to DBAS president Utu Abe Malae. He explained, "This amount will meet the loan needs of entrepreneurs and those wanting new homes or home repairs." But the primary emphasis is on any industry endeavor that results in exports.

Utu described the collection efforts on student loans as being "slow," saying that DBAS has collected about \$100,000 from 100 repayments so far. Students are eligible for up to a 50% waiver of the principal if they can verify that they have worked in American Samoa for at least two years. According to Utu, the student can be self-employed or working for the private sector, and not necessarily for the American Samoa Government. September 30, 2007 is the deadline for the 1997-2004 recipients of the program.



Judy Taufete'e is one of the many dedicated DBAS employees standing by to assist local residents with their banking needs.

Afterwards, the loans will be in default and referred to the legal department. The waiver eligibility deadline has been set for December 31, 2007 and details about this are being published in the local newspaper. As for loan applications, Utu reported that DBAS made a total of 41 loans in 2004, and 161 the following year in 2005. Last year, the bank made 96 loans and is currently on pace to exceed that number this year.

"DBAS was able to make so many loans in 2005 because of excess capital (investments) that had accumulated from previous years," Utu explained. "During that time, DBAS was able to help many borrowers who had been waiting years for their loans to be made." Right now, there are no new loan programs available to local residents, as the bank is still awaiting news from HUD regarding the allocation for FY2007, which began July 1, 2007. Utu said that they expect to announce the HUD HOME program by October, if not sooner, but they are still accepting applications for the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) commercial loan program.



DBAS board member and local businesswoman Mrs. Fiapfa'i Tualo Freaan.

When asked about the role of the DBAS board, Utu said that the bank's board of directors is keenly aware of the difference between governance and management. "This is demonstrated by their willingness to engage in director training and declining to instruct employees other than the direct report (CEO). Board meeting agendas are carefully prepared; there are no surprises or hidden agendas, or worse, secret 'executive' meetings to engage in gossip. Minutes are prepared with an eye toward transparency and accountability," Utu explained.

"The board is painfully aware from experience that in the future, auditors including the Inspector General may inspect our records including the minutes. The board reminds itself of its fiduciary duties and regularly asks - are we obeying our own policies?" he added. Utu said that the board members neither instruct the bank attorney to conduct "witch hunts" on employees, nor do they attempt to force the CEO to make bad loans for the sake of political expediency. "Where separation is required between management and governance, the board allows for its audit committee to communicate directly with the auditors without the presence of the CEO. This is a good practice and protects the integrity of the bank," Utu continued. He added that the directors are well versed in the affairs of the bank. "For example, two directors explained a bank piece of legislation expertly at the Fono. The bill became law and protected the bank from obligating resources it didn't have."

The board chairman, Sen. Liufau Sonoma, is a retired meteorologist. "It is a good thing to have someone with a science background on the board," Utu remarked.

He concluded, "The bank is the socioeconomic development agency for the Territory because it is a 'development bank' after all. The key areas that need immediate development are education and health care."



DBAS credit manager Jason Betham oversees the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) commercial loan program, which is still accepting applications at this time.



Mrs. Lagi Asuega, wife of Paramount Chief Manga Tasi Asuega, is one of the DBAS board members.



Sen. Liufau Sonoma, a retired meteorologist, is currently the DBAS board chairman. DBAS president Utu Abe Malae said that having a person with a science background is "a good thing" for the board.

## DHSS Compliance Unit out to stop the sale of tobacco to minors

Ever since the responsibilities and duties involving the issuance of tobacco licenses and imposition of penalties for violations were transferred from the Department of Health to the Compliance Unit of the Department of Human and Social Services last year, many local vendors have been more compliant with the law as the fines for violations have since been increased by a whopping 900%

That's right! In previous years, vendors caught selling tobacco products to minors were only fined \$100, which was merely a slap on the wrist for some big time retailers. However, that fine has since ballooned to \$1,000 for first time offenders and for every subsequent violation, another \$1,000 is added. (i.e. second time offenders pay \$2,000, third time offenders pay \$3,000 etc.)

(Continued on page 8)

## DHSS Compliance Unit *(from page 7)*



*Acting manager for the DHSS Compliance Unit, Emelio Fruean, says that while the number of stores caught selling tobacco products to minors has decreased, there are still a few vendors that continue to sell cigarettes to young kids as a way to earn a few extra dollars.*

Compliance Unit acting manager Emelio Fruean says that store owners are now beginning to take the matter seriously, although there are still a few businesses permitting the sale of tobacco to minors, as a way to "make a quick buck."

To help locate problematic stores, the Compliance Unit, which includes Fruean and three other officers, carry out the annual SYNAR program, using underage girls and boys between 13-15 years old as buyers.

This year's SYNAR program is being conducted this month, and a report on exactly how many stores were found to be in violation is yet to be released.

During the operation, the teens are escorted to the nearly 200 different stores around the territory by members of the Compliance Unit. Once there, the teens are sent into the stores to buy cigarettes, while a compliance officer roams the aisles and monitors the transaction to ensure the safety of the young "buyers."

If the vendor refuses the sale, the group moves on to the next store. However, if the transaction goes through, then the

compliance officer walks up to the counter and a citation is issued.

All citations are presented before a hearing board that is headed by DHSS deputy director Uusia Fano. It is the board who issues the ultimate decision on what, if anything, will be done to the vendor (fine imposition, suspension, or revocation of the business' tobacco license).

"The board has the final word," Fruean explained. "They can either overturn our report or impose any fines or penalties they see fit." He added, "With the new fines in place, and the enforcement of the SYNAR program, the number of violations has since decreased less than half as compared to previous years."

In addition to busting stores for selling cigarettes to minors, the Compliance Unit also cracks down on stores that break other areas of the law which include the sale of single cigarettes out of the package, failure to properly display tobacco licenses where it is in full view of the public, and selling cigarettes without a tobacco license.



*Compliance Officer Mafutaga Pa of Pava'ia'i*

"The same fine applies," Fruean explained. "No license means a fine of \$1,000!"

A tobacco license can be obtained from the Compliance Unit office on the second floor of the ASNAP building in Utulei. The licenses, which cost \$25, must be renewed on an annual basis.

"Our goal is to discourage the illegal sale of tobacco products, especially to our young people," Fruean offered. "In an effort to stop our youth from experimenting with tobacco products and alcohol, everyone, especially local vendors, must do their part in helping to deter the practice. Keeping the territory's kids smoke-free is a community effort and one of the ways to ensure this happens is by letting the young people know that they

can't just walk into a store and buy a pack of cigarettes."

In addition to Fruean, the Compliance Unit is manned by officers Kalati Talosaga, Mafutaga Pa, and Wallace Taufaaasau.



*Compliance Officer Kalati Talosaga of Fagaalu*



*Compliance Officer Wallace Taufaaasau of Pago Pago*